General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 March 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 43

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.33/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

55/177. United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/99 of 8 December 1999, in which it decided to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala from 1 January to 31 December 2000,

Taking into account that, for the first time since the signing of the peace agreements, Guatemala held general elections during the period from November to December 1999 and that the peaceful transfer of power signals significant progress towards the consolidation of an inclusive and democratic political system,

Underlining the fact that substantive aspects of the agenda of the peace agreements are yet to be implemented and that their implementation requires a revised calendar prepared by the Commission to Follow up the Implementation of the Peace Agreements,

Taking into account that the parties have requested the United Nations to support the consolidation of the peace-building process until 2003,[1]

Taking into account also the tenth[2] and eleventh[3] reports of the Mission on human rights,

Taking into account further the fourth[4] and fifth[5] reports of the Secretary-General on the verification of compliance with the peace agreements,

Taking into account the report of the Commission for Historical Clarification,[6]

Stressing the positive role played by the Mission in support of the Guatemala peace process, and emphasizing the need for the Mission to continue to enjoy the full support of all parties concerned,

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[1] See A/55/389, para. 9.
[2] A/54/688, annex.
[3] A/55/174, annex.
[4] A/54/526.
[5] A/55/175.
[6] A/53/928, annex.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Mission,[7]

1. *Welcomes* the tenth[2] and eleventh[3] reports of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala on human rights;

2. *Also welcomes* the fourth[4] and fifth[5] reports of the Secretary-General on the verification of compliance with the peace agreements;

3. *Recalls* the report of the Commission for Historical Clarification and the recommendations contained therein;[6]

4. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the new Government of Guatemala in January 2000 to the implementation of the peace agreements and to reinvigorating the peace process through the adoption of social policies anchored to the agreements;

5. *Takes note* of the agreement reached by the parties regarding the importance of the continuing presence of the Mission in Guatemala until 2003;

6. *Also takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General[7] which are aimed at ensuring that the Mission can respond adequately to the demands of the peace process until 31 December 2001, as well as of his proposals relating to the changes in the structure and staffing of the Mission for the period 2001–2003;

7. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the implementation of the peace agreements, in particular the process towards the finalization of the Fiscal Pact for a Future with Peace and Development which establishes the basis for increased public spending on the peace agenda and paves the way for the modernization of the economic system, the reinforcement of the operational capacities and training of the National Civil Police and the establishment by decree of the Women's Secretariat;

8. *Welcomes* the rescheduling of pending commitments by the Commission to Follow Up the Implementation of the Peace Agreements and the inclusion of commitments not initially scheduled in a revised calendar for implementation, and urges the rapid approval of the new timetable;

9. *Notes* that the consolidation of the peace-building process remains a significant challenge that requires the strengthening of achievements to date and the completion of the outstanding agenda;

10. *Underlines with concern* that key reforms envisaged in the peace agreements remain outstanding, including the fiscal, judicial, military, electoral and land reforms, as well as decentralization and rural development, and therefore urges the finalization of the Fiscal Pact, notes the need to strengthen the institutions established under the agreements, and stresses the importance of continued compliance with the peace agreements;

11. *Notes* that the present Government has assigned priority to national and international human rights obligations;

12. *Encourages* the Government to implement the recommendations contained in the reports of the Mission on human rights, in particular in view of the

[7] A/55/389.

persistent shortcomings in the overall human rights situation and the troubling increase in incidents directed at people working on such issues;

13. *Underlines* the importance of implementing fully the Agreement on identity and rights of indigenous peoples[8] as a key to achieving peace in Guatemala, and highlights the need to implement fully the Agreement on Social and Economic Aspects and Agrarian Situation[9] as a means of addressing the root causes of the armed conflict;

14. *Calls upon* the Government to follow up the recommendations of the Commission for Historical Clarification, with a view to promoting national reconciliation, upholding the right to truth and providing redress, in accordance with Guatemalan law, for the victims of human rights abuses and violence committed during the thirty-six-year conflict, and calls upon Congress to establish the Commission for Peace and Harmony;

15. *Encourages* the parties and all sectors of Guatemalan society to intensify their efforts to achieve the goals of the peace agreements, in particular the observance of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples, equitable development, participation and national reconciliation;

16. *Invites* the international community and, in particular, the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations, to continue to support the consolidation of the peace-building process and to consider the implementation of the peace agreements as the framework for their technical and financial assistance programmes and projects, and stresses the continued importance of close cooperation among them in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Guatemala;

17. *Urges* the international community to support financially the strengthening of the capacities of the United Nations agencies and programmes as they assume a more active role in working in a closely coordinated relationship with the Mission in order to ensure the consolidation of the peace process in Guatemala;

18. *Stresses* that the Mission has a key role to play in promoting the consolidation of peace and the observance of human rights and in verifying compliance with the newly approved timetable for the implementation of pending commitments under the peace agreements;

19. *Decides* to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the Mission from 1 January to 31 December 2001;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, as early as possible, an updated report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, together with his recommendations regarding the continuation of the peace-building phase after 31 December 2001;

21. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly fully informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

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[8] A/49/882-S/1995/256, annex.
[9] A/50/956, annex.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 March 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 43

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.42/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

55/178. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

The General Assembly,

Considering the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 637 (1989) of 27 July 1989, and its own resolutions, particularly resolution 43/24 of 15 November 1988, in which it requests the Secretary-General to continue his good offices and to afford the fullest possible support to the Central American Governments in their efforts to achieve the objectives of peace, reconciliation, democracy, development and justice established in the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America" of 7 August 1987,[1]

Reaffirming its resolutions in which it recognizes and stresses the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance, both bilateral and multilateral, aimed at promoting economic and social development in the region with a view to furthering and supplementing the efforts of the Central American peoples and Governments to achieve peace and democratization, particularly resolution 52/169 G of 16 December 1997, concerning international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America,[2] as well as its resolution 53/1 C of 2 November 1998, concerning emergency assistance to Central America, owing to the destruction caused by hurricane Mitch,

Emphasizing the importance of the development of the Central American Integration System, which has as its main objective the promotion of the integration process, the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America as the integrated programme for national and regional development, which contains the commitments and priorities of the countries of the area for the promotion of sustainable development, the establishment of the subsystem and of the regional social policy, the model of democratic Central American security, and the

[1] A/42/521-S/19085, annex.
[2] A/49/580-S/1994/1217, annex I.

implementation of other agreements adopted at the presidential summit meetings, which taken together constitute the global frame of reference for consolidating peace, freedom, democracy and development and the basis for the promotion of mutually advantageous relations between Central America and the international community,

Recognizing the considerable success achieved in the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the Guatemala Peace Agreements, implementation of which is being verified by the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala,

Noting at the same time the delays in the fulfilment of some of the commitments contained in the Guatemala Peace Agreements, which has led the Commission to Follow up the Implementation of the Peace Agreements to reschedule its fulfilment for the period 2001–2004, and having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala and the recommendations contained therein[3] aimed at ensuring that the Mission is able to respond adequately to the demands of the peace process until December 2001,

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful implementation of the Peace Agreements and the continuous consolidation of the process of democratization in El Salvador, as a result of the efforts of its people and Government,

Recognizing with satisfaction the role played by the peacekeeping operations and observer and monitoring missions of the United Nations, which carried out successfully their mandate in Central America pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, respectively,

Recognizing with satisfaction also the organization and holding of general elections in Guatemala at the end of 1999, of municipal and parliamentary elections in El Salvador in March 2000 and of municipal elections in Nicaragua in November 2000,

Emphasizing the importance of the end of a critical period in Central American history and the start of a new phase free from armed conflict, with freely elected Governments in each country and with political, economic, social and other changes which are creating a climate conducive to the promotion of economic growth and further progress towards the consolidation and further development of democratic, just and equitable societies,

Noting with gratification that the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[4] will be held in Nicaragua in September 2001,

Reaffirming that the consolidation and establishment of firm and lasting peace and democracy in Central America is a dynamic and ongoing process that faces serious structural challenges,

Stressing the importance of progress in human development, especially the alleviation of extreme poverty, the promotion of economic and social justice, judicial reform, the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for minorities and the satisfaction of the basic needs of the most vulnerable groups

[3] A/55/389.
[4] See CD/1478.

among the peoples in the region, issues which have been a primary source of tension and conflict and which deserve to be discussed with the same urgency and dedication as was the case in the settlement of armed conflicts,

Considering with concern that it has not yet been possible to overcome the devastating effects of hurricanes Mitch and Keith on sectors of Central American countries and which are causing setbacks in the efforts of the peoples and the Governments of Central America,

Emphasizing the solidarity of the international community with the victims of hurricane Mitch, as demonstrated by the Stockholm Declaration,[5] the subsequent meetings of the Consultative Group for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Central America and the next meeting of the Group in Madrid in January 2001,

Bearing in mind the efforts made by the Central American Governments to reduce the risks and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters in the region, as demonstrated by the adoption, by the Presidents of the Isthmus, of the Declaration of Guatemala II of 19 October 1999,[6] the subsequent adoption of the Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Disasters in Central America, as well as the adoption of the Central American Five-Year Plan for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Disasters, 2000 to 2004,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[7]

2. *Commends* the efforts of the peoples and the Governments of the Central American countries to re-establish peace and democracy throughout the region and promote sustainable development by implementing the commitments adopted at the summit meetings in the region, and supports the decision of the Presidents that Central America should become a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development;

3. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to improve the electoral processes that have been taking place in Central America, which are conducive to the consolidation of democracy in the region, and encourages greater participation of citizens in elections;

4. *Recognizes* the need to continue to follow closely the situation in Central America according to the objectives and principles established in the Stockholm Declaration[5] in order to support national and regional efforts to overcome the underlying causes that have led to armed conflicts, avoid setbacks and consolidate peace and democratization in the area and promote the objectives of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America;[2]

5. *Stresses* the importance of lending support to the meeting of the Consultative Group for the Reconstruction and Transformation of Central America, which will be held in Madrid in January 2001, in order to continue to help to consolidate the modernization and improvement of the principal structures of the region in accordance with the model established by the Alliance for Sustainable Development;

[5] See www.iadb.org.
[6] A/54/630, annex.
[7] A/55/465.

6. *Welcomes* the Declaration of Guatemala II[6] which provides for the necessary measures to prevent vulnerability to and mitigate the effects of natural disasters;

7. *Also welcomes* the progress achieved in implementing the Guatemala Peace Agreements, calls upon all parties to take further measures to implement the commitments in the Peace Agreements, and urges all sectors of society to combine efforts and work with courage and determination to consolidate peace;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the bodies and programmes of the United Nations system and the international community to continue to support and verify in Guatemala the implementation of all the peace agreements signed under United Nations auspices, compliance with which is an essential condition for a firm and lasting peace in that country, and to consider the implementation of the Peace Agreements as the framework for their technical and financial assistance programmes and projects, stressing the importance of constant and close cooperation among them in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Guatemala;

9. *Expresses its appreciation with satisfaction* to the people and the Government of El Salvador for their efforts to fulfil the commitments set forth in the Peace Agreements, which has made a substantial contribution to the strengthening of the process of democratization in that country;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of the Central American Integration System as the body set up to coordinate and harmonize efforts to achieve integration, and calls upon the international community, the United Nations system and other international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to extend generous and effective cooperation with a view to improving the competence and efficiency of the Integration System in the fulfilment of its mandate;

11. *Underlines* the efforts carried out in the Central American region towards integration, such as the Trinational Declaration between Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, as well as the Customs Union between those countries, as means for promoting integration while respecting different stages of development, through a pragmatic mechanism open to the participation of the other countries of the region;

12. *Encourages* the Central American Governments to continue to carry out their historic responsibilities by fully implementing the commitments they have assumed under national, regional or international agreements, especially the commitments to implement the social programme to overcome poverty and unemployment, establish a more just and equitable society, improve public safety, strengthen the judiciary, consolidate a modern and transparent public administration and eliminate corruption, impunity, acts of terrorism and drug and arms trafficking, all of which are necessary and urgent measures for establishing a firm and lasting peace in the region;

13. *Reiterates its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General, his special representatives, the groups of countries for the peace processes in El Salvador (Colombia, Mexico, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela), and Guatemala (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela), to the Support Group for Nicaragua (Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden), to the European Union and to other countries that have contributed significantly and to the international community in general for its

support and solidarity in the building of peace, democracy and development in Central America;

14. *Reaffirms* the importance of international cooperation, in particular cooperation with the bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the donor community in the new stage of consolidating firm and lasting peace and democracy in Central America, and urges them to continue to support Central American efforts to achieve those goals;

15. *Notes with satisfaction* the determination of the Central American Governments to settle their disputes through peaceful means, thereby avoiding any setback in the efforts to consolidate firm and lasting peace in the region;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to lend his full support to the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, particularly their efforts to consolidate peace and democracy through the promotion of integration and the implementation of the comprehensive sustainable development programme, emphasizing, inter alia, the potential repercussions of natural disasters, in particular the persisting effects of hurricane Mitch, for the peace processes and the vulnerable economies of the region, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

86th plenary meeting
19 December 2000